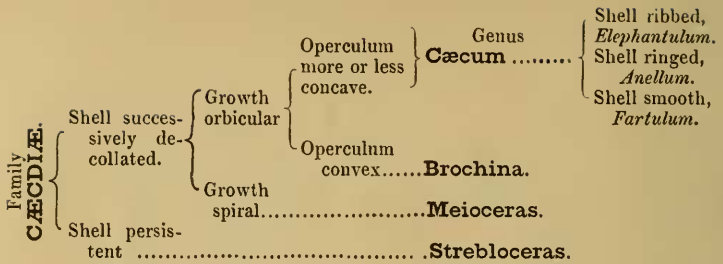


ANALYSIS OF GENERA.



4. DESCRIPTION OF RIAMA, A NEW GENUS OF LIZARDS, FORMING A DISTINCT FAMILY. BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC. ETC.

(Reptilia, Pl. XV.)

Mr. Louis Fraser has lately sent to the British Museum a considerable series of Lizards, Snakes, and Toads and Frogs from Guayaquil, in spirits. Among other interesting species is an annulated Lizard, which, as it cannot be referred to any of the existing families, and has a very peculiar external appearance, must at the same time be considered as the type of a new genus and new family.

This Lizard belongs to the section of *Cyclosauræ*, which have a distinct longitudinal fold along each side like the *Zonuridæ*; but it differs from the animal of that family in all the scales of the body and tail being clongate, four-sided, placed in transverse rings and regular longitudinal series, like the scales of the *Amphisbænidæ*, while the scales of the back and tail of the *Zonuridæ* are all rhombic and more or less distinctly keeled. It differs from the *Amphisbænidæ* in having an elongated head, four distinct moderately strong limbs (each furnished with five toes armed with claws), and broad square shields on the central part of the belly and tail.

It differs from the genera of the *Chalcidæ* in the position of the nostril (which in the genera of this family is large and placed in the suture between the lower edge of the nasal and the upper edge of the labial shield), and in the presence of exposed ears, which in that family are entirely hidden under the skin.

These animals have the general form of the Lizards—their elongated head furnished with regular shields, well developed eyes covered with eyelids, well developed legs and feet, and a bifid tongue with acute lobes, combined with small regular square or rather elongated four-sided scales forming rings round the body. The scales of the different rings are arranged in regular longitudinal series, smooth, impressed, not imbricate one over the other, but like those of *Amphisbæna*: indeed on looking at its back it might be almost taken for



